

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kenji KITA et al. Art Unit:
Application No.: filed concurrently Examiner:
Filing Date: March 30, 2004
Title : METHOD FOR RETRIEVING DATA, APPARATUS FOR RETRIEVING
DATA, PROGRAM FOR RETRIEVING DATA, AND MEDIUM
READABLE BY MACHINE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to their duty of good faith and candor as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56(a), applicants request that the references cited on attached form PTO-1449 (a copy of which is enclosed) be considered by the Examiner in connection with the search of the prior art required by 37 CFR 1.104.

Please note that three Japanese Patent Publications are discussed on pages 3 and 5 of the specification. Please also note that the English language translations of the two Japanese references are also enclosed. Please note that these English translations are machine translations provided by the Japan Patent Office and the Japan Patent Office states that the translation may not precisely reflect the original Japanese text. The English language abstracts of these Japanese references are also enclosed.

This Statement is being filed under 37 CFR 1.97(b) prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

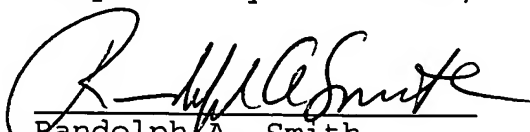
It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

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Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached at the telephone number listed below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 30, 2004


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¹Unique citation designation number. ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.